ships, non-availability of building berths in shipyards, etc., it may not be feasible for the shipping companies to do so..

Indians engaged in Construction Companies in Iraq

436. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of EXTRENAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps so far to provide safety to all the Indians engaged by Indian construction companies in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indians held up in Iraq since the war broke out; and

(d) by when all the Indians would be brought back safely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (d) All Indian companies working in Iraq, in fact, all Indian nationals there, had been repeatedly advised well before the hostilities broke out to leave and all possible assistance was given in that respect. At the time of the outbreak of recent hostilities there were about 2000 of our nationals in Iraq. As per the latest information all but about 130 have left Iraq. Everything possible is being done to get the remaining people out, but is is not possible to indicate a date by which they will be out.

India's Initiative on Convening Meeting of the UN Security Council

437. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to direct the country's permanent representative to the United Nations to ask for a meeting of the Security Council immediately to review the progress of the implementation of Resolution 678 (which authorised the use of force for the liberation of Kuwait) as required under Para four of the Resolution;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on the progress of the implementation of Resolution 678; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) India's Permanent Representative at the UN has stated our position that the Security Council should keep under continuous review action taken under Resolution 678, as required by Para 4 of that Resolution.

(b) and (c) Government have noted with deep concern that the destruction unleashed by the hostilities in the Gulf has not been confined to military targets. Government have pointed out that the objectives of SCR 678 is to liberate Kuwait and not to subdue Iraq or to dismantle its technological and physical infrastructure. The official spokesman's statement of 9-2-91 is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

The Government of India has noted deep concern that the destruction unleashed by the hostilities in the Gulf has not been confined to military targets. Many innocent lives have been lost Civilian properties, including thousands of dwelling houses, have been destroyed. Civilian traffic on the road from Baghadad to Amman has been hit, causing death and injuries to many civilians. Millions of civilians have been caught up in the violence, particularly in Kuwait, without shelter or protection against bombing. Their plight is compounded by the health hazard faced by them owing to the absence of electricity and increasing shortages of clean water. We would urge that internationally accepted methods of warfare by scruplously adhered to and every possible precaution taken to protect the civilian population against the devastations and risks of the military operations.

The UN Security Council Resolution 678 authorises member—States cooperating with the Government of Kuwait, to use all necessary means to uphold and implement the Security Council Resolution 660. Even those who are participating in the Gulf war in pursuance of this resolution, have recog-